

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 TRSY-02 /073 W
-----020829Z 028465 /11

R 011730Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3765
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 5470

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: PCI DIRECTORATE PUSHES CALL FOR PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD

1. AT A MEETING MARCH 31, THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) DEIRECTORATE APPROVED A DOCUMENT URGING EARLY INITIATION OF A DIALOGUE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD AMONG THE VARIOUS PARTIES OF THE SO-CALLED DEMOCRATIC ARC. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, THE NEED FOR SUCH AN EARLY AGREEMENT ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNING FORMULA LACKS THE AUTHORITY AND THE DECISIVENESS TO CONFRONT THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING THE NATION TODAY.

2. THE DOCUMENT NOTES THAT THE POLITICAL FORMULA CREATED FOLLOWING THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 20 ELECTIONS HAS PRODUCED POSITIVE RESULTS. HOWEVER, THE DOCUMENT OBSERVES THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THIS TRANSITORY PHASE IN ITALIAN POLITICAL HISTORY AND IT STRESSES THAT THE CPI HAS LONG ADVANCED THE NEED FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SOLIDARITY.

3. ACCORDING TO THE DOCUMENT, THE CPI DOES NOT INTEND
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TO ACT PRECIPITOUSLY IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD CREATE A "CRISIS IN THE DARK". NEVERTHELESS, IT WARNS THAT THIS RETICENCE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO SIGNIFY THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION CAN CONTINUE FOR LONG SINCE IT RUNS THE RISK OF FURTHER WORSENING CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY AND PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE SEEKING TO IMPEDE AN "ADVANCEMENT OF THE POLITICAL

SITUATION." IN ADDITION TO PUTTING THE IDEA OF A PRO-GRAMMATIC ACCORD AT THE TOP OF THE LIST OF INITIATIVES, THE PCI DIRECTORATE'S DOCUMENT ALSO APOKE OF THE NEED TO PROVIDE QUARANTEES THAT THE AGREED PROGRAMS WOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME FRAMES AND IN THE MANNER SPECIFIED, AND THIS "TOUCHES UPON THE PROBLEMS OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT, OF ITS STRUCTURE, AND MORE GENERALLY, OF THE RELATIONS AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCES AND THE EXECUTIVE, IN THE PARLIAMENT AND OUTSIDE THE PARLIAMENT, IN ALL SPHERES OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND CIVIL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY."

4. CONCERNING FUTURE MEETINGS BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTIES DESIGNED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A PROGRAM, THE PCI DIRECTORATE LISTS THE FOLLOWING AREAS WHICH HAVE TO BE CONFRONTED:

A. FOREIGN POLICY-- THE NEED TO QUARANTEE THE COMPLETE AUTONOMY OF ITALY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND TO WORK TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT.

B. DEMOCRATIC ORDER AND SECURITY OF THE CITIZENS-- AMONG THE ITEMS UNDER THIS CATEGORY ARE: REFORM OF THE SECURITY SERVICES (SID; REFORM OF PUBLIC SECURITY FORCES; RESTURCTURING OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE; AND REFORM OF THE PRISON SYSTEM.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 5470

C. ECONOMIC POLICY--ADOPTION OF A POLICY WHICH WILL FIGHT INFLATION AND AT THE SAME TIME STIMULATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF JOBS TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUTHS AND WOMEN. OTHER AREAS NEEDING ATTENTION ARE: NEW MEASURES GUIDING PUBLIC SPENDING; REVISIONS IN THE TAX SYSTEM; THE LAUNCHING OF A NEW AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SUPPLY POLICY; AND THE LAUNCHING OF AN INDUSTRIAL POLICY.

D. SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY--THE WORKING OUT AND ADOPTION OF A LONG-TERM PLAN PROVIDING FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

E. REFORM OF THE POLITICAL SYSTEM--THE WORKING OUT OF A PLAN FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND A REDEFINITION OF THE POWERS AND THE RIGHTS OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. IT PROPOSES A SIMPLIFICATION OF LOCAL POWERS AND THE ELIMINATION OF THE PROVINCES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES.

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F. INFORMATION POLICY--THE NEED TO CONFRONT THE CRISIS INVOLVING THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY AND TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF RADIO AND TELEVISION IN THE COUNTRY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SAFEGUARDING THE PRIORITY OF THE NATIONAL STATIONS.

G. NOMINATIONS--REVISION OF THE MANNER IN WHICH NOMINATIONS ARE MADE TO FILL GOVERNMENTAL POSTS.

4. COMMENT. THE DIRECTORATE DOCUMENT IN TERMS OF ITS GENERAL POLITICAL LINE REPRESENTS A LITTLE NEW. THE NOVELTY IS THAT IT HAS BEEN ISSUED PRECISELY AT THIS TIME AND THAT IT GETS DOWN TO SPECIFICS ON THE PROBLEMS TO BE CONFRONTED. AS SUCH IT REPRESENTS A PCI ATTEMPT TO REGAIN THE POLITICAL INITIATIVE AT A TIME WHEN A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS HAS CAUSED IT TO LOSE MOMENTUM AND TO APPEAR TO BE ON THE DEFENSIVE. AT THIS JUNCTURE, THE PCI LEADERSHIP NEEDS MORE THAN EVER TO MAKE WHAT IT SEES AS "A SMALL STEP FORWARD," AND SOME TYPE OF PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD, ACCCOMPANIED BY A FORM OF POLITICAL GUARANTEE, WOULD FIT THE BILL. HOWEVER,

THE TYPE OF PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD ENVISIONED BY THE PCI INVOLVING QUESTIONS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, APPOINTMENT

TO SENIOR POSITIONS, AND REFORM OF THE SECURITY FORCES,
GOES FAR BEYOND WHAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ("PROGRAMMATIC CONVERGENCIES ON
CERTAIN THINGS"). ALTHOUGH THE PCI WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY
ACCEPT SOMETHING LESS THAN THE MAXIMAL POSITION IT
HAS ADVANCED, THE DOCUMENT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THE
PARTY INTENDS TO INCREASE ITS PRESSURE ON THE PRESENT
DC MINORITY GOVERNMENT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME
REFRAINING FROM MAKING A MOVE WHICH WOULD
PLACE ON ITS SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY FOR A "CRISIS
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IN THE DARK." FINALLY, IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT, WHILE
TALKING OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY,
THE PCI CONTINUES TO REFRAIN FROM USING THE TERM
"HISTORIC COMPROMISE" WHICH HAS VIRTUALLY PASSED FORM
THE PARTY'S POLITICAL TERMINOLOGY. GARDNER

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